

# 101

# Container Ideas

Volume 4

WITHOUT A DOUBT, containers are the icing on the cake when it comes to gardening. Whether you have a large garden, a small yard, or just a windowsill, you can find a plant and a container for every space. Containers allow you to unleash your innate creativity while adding stylish accents to your garden. You can grow fragrant and colorful flowers, provide tasty herbs and fresh vegetables, attract birds and butterflies, and even grow trees and shrubs. The most important aspect of container gardening is to have fun—and that's what *101 Container Garden Ideas* will help you do.

## PLANTING A CONTAINER GARDEN IN SIX EASY STEPS

You can plant a container garden at any time, but in early spring when a frost or freeze is possible, be prepared to shelter tender plants from the elements. Begin your garden by collecting plants, potting mix, and containers. If the container is lightweight, you can work on a potting bench or table. Or plant in place if the container will be too heavy to move when filled. Proceed with these simple step-by-step potting instructions.

### 1 MOISTEN POTTING MIX

Open the bag of potting mix; if it is dry, pour in warm water, fold over the bag, and knead the mix. Allow the water to absorb, which can take up to an hour. The goal is to create a moist but not soggy mix that clumps together for easy planting. If you need to moisten a large batch of soil, pour the mix onto a tarp or into a wheelbarrow and then add water.

### 2 COVER DRAINAGE HOLES

You may have heard that you should place broken pot shards or gravel in the bottom of a pot to aid drainage and prevent soil from leaking out. Research has proved that this practice is actually detrimental to plants; it slows drainage instead of improving it. If a container's drainage holes are large, laying pieces of old window screen over them will prevent soil from spilling out without impeding drainage.

### 3 PARTIALLY FILL THE CONTAINER WITH SOIL

Fill the container half full of potting mix if you are planting large plants or to within a few inches of the rim if the plants are small.

Set the potted plants in the container to get an idea of how your planned arrangement will look.

### 4 UNPOT PLANTS

Pop small plants out of their plastic cell packs or pots by pushing on the bottom of the pot while supporting the plant and covering the soil surface with the fingers of your other hand.

To remove a plant from a large pot, lay the pot on its side and push firmly against one side. Repeat on the other side, then turn the pot upside down and try to slide the root ball out of the pot. If it resists, use utility shears to cut off the bottom of the pot and free the roots.

You may find that the roots are tightly wound around the soil. Gently loosen them with your fingers or use a knife to make shallow vertical slices through the root ball in two or three places.

### 5 PLANT

Set large plants on the layer of potting mix in your container. Check that the tops of their root balls sit 1 to 3 inches below the rim of the pot. Pour potting mix around their roots, tamping it gently to fill all empty spaces. Make sure you don't plant too deep; the final

tamped-down potting mix should be level with the top of the root ball.

Next add smaller plants. The tops of their roots should sit about 2 inches from the tops of the containers. Scoop out a hole in the mix for each root ball. Tuck in each plant and gently pat down the mix around it.

Always be sure to allow 1 to 2 inches at the top of the container to create a reservoir for watering. To make that space, fill the pot almost to the rim loosely with potting soil. After the initial watering, the soil should settle to about 2 inches below the rim.

### 6 WATER WELL

When you are finished planting, water with a slow, gentle spray. Fill pots to the top, letting the water sink in until it flows from the drainage holes. Add more soil if necessary and water again.

Unless the containers are too heavy to move, place them in a shady area out of the wind. Water lightly whenever the surface feels dry. Move the pots to their final location in a couple days, after plants have recovered from the initial shock of transplanting.



## 1 HUMMER HAVEN

**HAVEN** A combination of hanging baskets and a large basket-type planter is filled with nectar- and pollen-rich plants. This portable garden also includes a handcrafted hummingbird feeder with red accents that signal nectar sources. Attract hummers with tubular flowers (lantana, salvia, pentas) that hold nectar-promising appeal. Hummingbirds have heightened awareness to colors in the red to yellow range, but nectar itself is the biggest draw.



## 3 FACADE FACELIFT

**FACELIFT** To give a front facade a face-lift, line an entry railing with flower boxes filled with vibrant annuals that will hold up to bright sun, such as these purple angelonia and orange Supertunias.

## 2 CLUSTER CONTAINERS

Potted plants bring the garden to a patio or deck but don't go overboard. Avoid crowding your location with too many tiny pots that get in your way.

In a small area, set clusters of pots where people won't trip over them. Use tall planters to ease transitions between a wall and the ground and keep the design dynamic.





## 4 THREE IN ONE

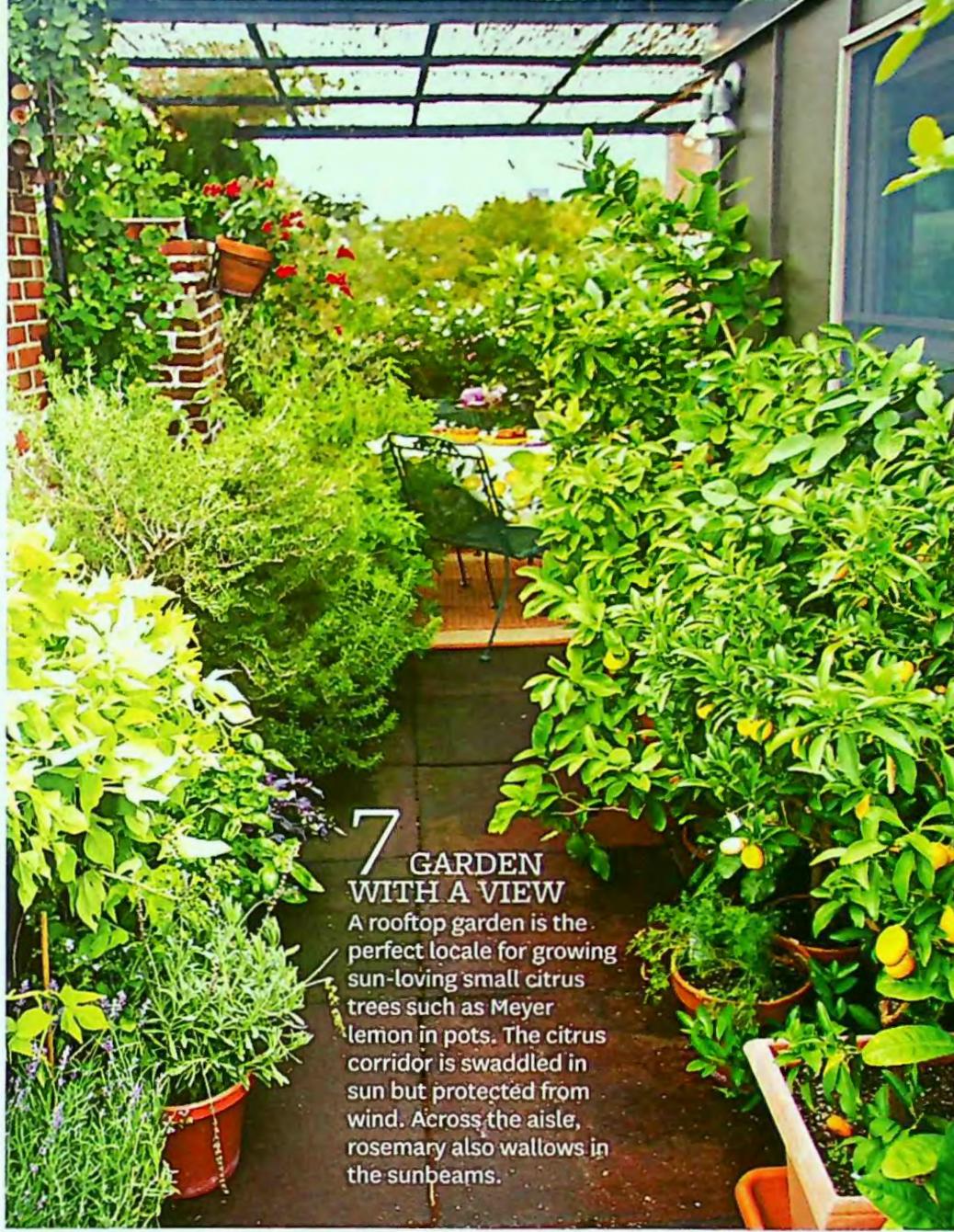
Nestle small pots inside a larger one. African violets have an amazing array of more than 30,000 cultivars that bloom in nearly every hue.



**5 FALL FLAIR** Here mums play a supporting role instead of the sole attraction. A tub of 'Spicy Cheryl Orange' mums gets a lift from a tall planter stuffed with purple heuchera and red-stemmed chard and a smaller pot brimming with cabbage and bittersweet.



**6 SUCCULENT TOWER** This custom-colored stack of terracotta pots holds loads of colorful *Sempervivum* and other succulents. The Latin name *Sempervivum* translates to "live forever."



**8 FILL 'ER UP!**

This vintage toy truck is filled with a burst of yellow-hued cacti, including *Notocactus leninghausii* and moon cactus (*Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*). Furry white mounds of *Mammillaria vetula* subsp. *gracilis* and *Echinopsis subdenudatum* corral the taller plants. Bronze zebra plant (*Haworthia attenuata*) lifts tentaclelike foliage toward the sky.



## 11 CLICK, CLACK, PLANT

Celebrate a portable typewriter's years of service by bringing it to life with succulents. Using pliers, wire cutters, and a small screwdriver, remove all the typewriter's interior mechanisms. Nestle a small planting container inside the typewriter. Plant with a variety of succulents boasting unique textures, shapes, and colors.

## 9 AMARYLLIS POT

A single bulb can produce a succession of stems, each topped with as many as six blooms. Try planting three bulbs of the same variety in a single pot for a show that lasts for months. Left to right: 'Amorice', 'Ice Queen', and 'Mega Star'.



## 10 TAPESTRY OF

TEXTURE This galvanized planter combines helichrysum 'Icicles', creeping Jenny, pansies, kale, and sedum 'Autumn Joy', while the wire basket showcases Swiss chard, ornamental peppers, pansies, black-eyed Susan, and golden sage.



## 12 PLANTED

LANTERN Mini daffodils, candytuft, aluminum plant, and grape hyacinth turn this lantern into a terrarium. Use as a tabletop centerpiece, to highlight an entryway, or as an accent for special occasions.



**13** LAMP  
**PLANTER** Use a tall lamp as a planter to add height to a low-growing perennial border or shrub planting. Anchor the top-heavy planters by pounding a sturdy stake into the ground and set the hollow lamp base over the stake. Attach a basket planter and fill with impatiens and caladium. (Not pictured in a garden setting here.)



## 14 SINGLES ONLY

Foliage is key in this design, starring the dramatically textured palm leaf begonia (*Begonia luxurians*), which can be brought indoors as a houseplant at the end of the season. Golden creeping Jenny drapes over the edge of the pineapple-texture pot, and a 'Painted Paradise Red' New Guinea impatiens adds beautiful dark contrast in flower and leaf. This grouping appreciates afternoon shade.



## 15 GO FOR DRAMA

A few large-leaf jungle natives can make a big impact. Plants such as banana, croton, elephant's ear, canna, and palm all love hot weather. It only takes one or two to act as a natural privacy screen and create a getaway spot for relaxing amid the rustling and dappled shade from the oversize foliage.



## 16 GALVANIZE A

**LOOK** Talk about bringing your plants to new heights. This rustic piece is made from rope and galvanized metal with a solid gray finish. It's perfect for adding rustic charm to any garden.



## 17 PULL UP A CHAIR

Repurpose a run-down garage-sale find into a whimsical planter. Remove the seat, then strip, sand, and paint it. Attach a planter made of organic material such as coconut fiber and fill with colorful blooms.



## 18 DAZZLING DOORWAY

Two large planters, rebar, and steel remesh are used to create a one-of-a-kind arbor. Hop rhizomes *Humulus lupulus 'Cascade'* and '*Chinook*' vines clamber over this arbor to evoke the industrial style of a microbrewery. Add color to the planters with zinnias.



## 19 DRESSY POTS

These fashion-inspired pots are made of the same durable material used for RV and boat covers. A fun scalloped edge adds extra flair, and the porous bottom allows for ample drainage to maintain healthy, robust plants.



## 20 ADD FLAIR TO A FENCE

Attach plant hanger hooks to a wood fence and insert pots planted with tough annuals, such as 'Diamond Frost' euphorbia, 'Marguerite' sweet potato vine, and pink 'Supertunia Vista Fuchsia' petunia, to create a wall of living color.

## 21 THIRST QUENCHER

Cylindrical and sleek, retro thermoses with metallic sheens offer a fun contrast to the various fleshy, spiky, and curvy leaves of succulents.

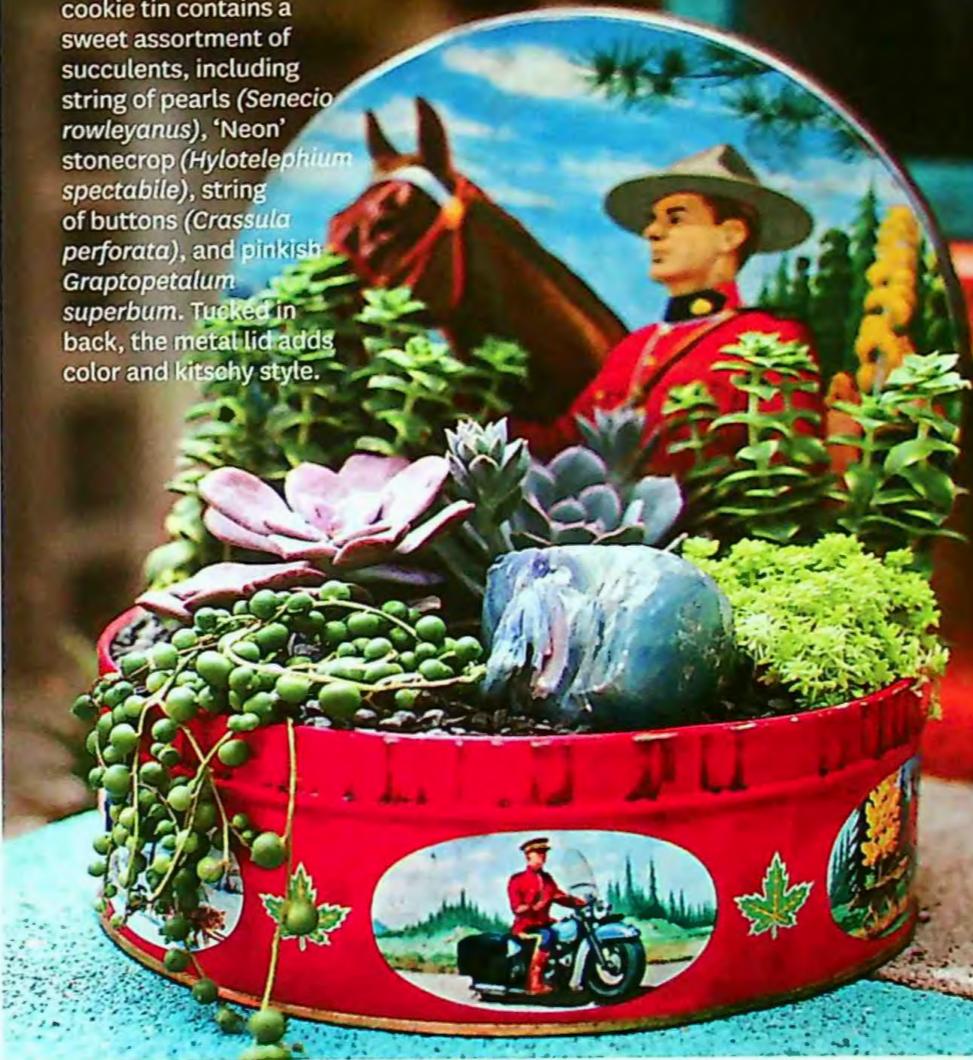




## 22

### COLORFUL CANISTER

A vintage Canadian Mountie cookie tin contains a sweet assortment of succulents, including string of pearls (*Senecio rowleyanus*), 'Neon' stonecrop (*Hylotelephium spectabile*), string of buttons (*Crassula perforata*), and pinkish *Graptopetalum superbum*. Tucked in back, the metal lid adds color and kitschy style.



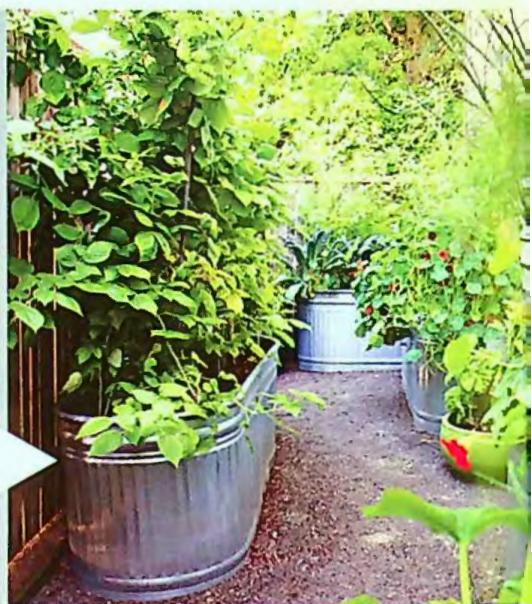
## 23

### TUNE IN

Using a tiny screwdriver, remove the back panel of a turn-dial radio. Use wire cutters to pull out the inner workings. To make room for a planting vessel—a loaf pan works well, cut a rectangle opening out of the plastic top of the radio using a stencil cutter. Slip the container inside, replace the back panel, and plant!



**24 MADE IN THE SHADE** In the tallest planter, three black mondo grass plants fill out the understory of a full-moon maple. A medium-size container brims over with Zinfandel shamrock while a squat, boxy container sports foamflower.



**25 GROW BIG** Oversize planters such as these livestock watering tanks reduce back strain caused by bending down to pull weeds, prune plants, and harvest produce. This series of tanks creates an edible garden in a side yard.



**26 MIXED COMPANY** This grouping of mixed containers thrives in partially shaded areas. The combo includes false cypress, geraniums, yellow wax begonias, apricot-color begonia hybrid, Lime Rickey coralbells (*Heuchera*), and English ivy.



**27 SOW A SALAD** Plant greens and salad ingredients in pots to make harvesting and planting successive crops easy.



**28 GET FUNKY** Seek out one-of-a-kind planters to bring interest to your garden. Here, a googly-eyed ceramic pot grows a hairdo of pitcher plant (*Sarracenia*).



**29 CREATE GARDEN ARCHITECTURE** A large ceramic container overflowing with blue-green African honey bush (*Meliathus major*) and encircled by tipped-over pots of cacti anchors the juncture of two axial pathways.



## 30 IT'S A WRAP

Inexpensive materials, such as a plain terra-cotta flowerpot and a roll of sisal rope, can work wonders together. In a matter of minutes, you can handcraft a look that fits with your outdoor decor and makes your plants stand out.

## 31 NEW TRACTION ON STYLE

A used tire, sisal rope, and scrap plywood look surprisingly cool when combined to make a planter for the patio. Sisal rope conceals the old tire as well as a plastic planter tray to hold plants.

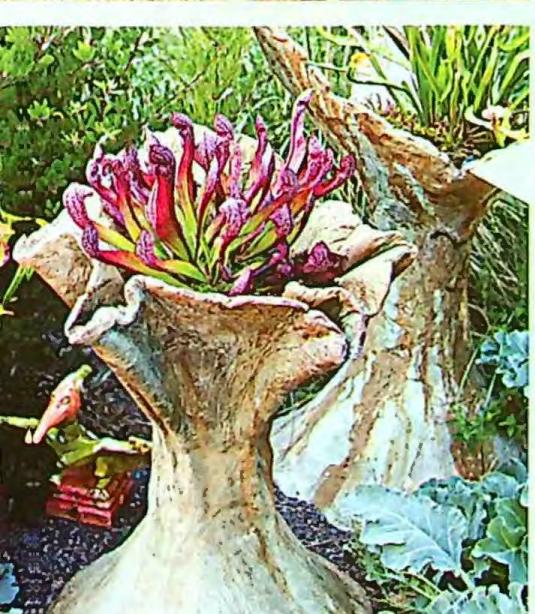


## 32 DOGWOOD WIGWAMS

The bendable branches of red-twist dogwood can be shaped into a miniature wigwam or arbor to artfully decorate pots of the simplest plantings—such as this chartreuse Scotch moss.

## 33 GREEN ASSEMBLY

This grouping of hypertufa troughs contains mostly shade lovers, including miniature fir, miniature hostas, dwarf meadow rue, holly-fern woodsia, violets, miniature forget-me-not, Japanese painted fern, bulbous fern, and rockfoil.



## 34 MATCH PLANT AND PLANTER

The free-form sculptural containers here echo the vibrant bog plants (*Sarracenia* and *Darlingtonia californica*) that are planted in them.

## 35 PLANT FOR YOUR HEART

Get heart-healthy from this antioxidant-rich garden of Shortcake raspberry, 'Bull's Blood' beets, 'Red Russian' kale, flat-leaf Italian parsley, and strawberries.



**36** STONE AGE Rock, metal, and greenery strike a chord to create this large and in-charge planter. A shrub and wispy grasses provide contrast with the textural chipped slate and wire for an edgy look that's at home in a modern space.



**37** STAY NEUTRAL For a swank presentation, there's nothing like pairing a green or variegated plant with a white or neutral pot. This circa 1940s-1950s Midwestern clay large-rimmed pot holds *Hemizygia 'Candy Kisses'*.

**38** LIVING WALLS Galvanized farm tanks turned privacy planters are hardworking elements for outdoor spaces.

Privacy planters require fast-growing, tall plants such as ornamental grasses, trellised vines, bamboo, tropical plants, or evergreens.



**39** SWEET SCENT It's the scent—a heady bouquet of honey and vanilla with a hint of orange blossoms—that makes sweet peas so unforgettable. They also have a wide-ranging color palette. Sweet peas make great bouquets for every room in your house.

**40 ON A ROLL** Filled to the brim with bristling, sculptural plants, a rusty metal cart contains golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*), Texas sotol (*Dasyliion texanum*), prickly pear, agave, and ghost plant (*Graptopetalum paraguayense*).



## 41 DOUBLE UP

A large planter nestled inside an even larger planter adds interest and height. The variety of color and texture of the plants adds to the show.



## 42 TOP IT OFF

Commercially made gold- and copper-wire obelisks add structural interest to a simple planting of 'Lois Burks' begonia in this pot. To echo the subtle gleam of the obelisks, brush a plain plastic pot with a thin coat of metallic paint.





## 44 SALVAGE WINDOW BOX

Galvanized pails, a calf bucket, and a galvanized hen nester give this DIY window box funky flair. Use what you have on hand to customize your window box. These pails are filled with gerbera daisies and vinca. The tray holds a variety of succulents.



## 43 GARDEN TABLE

A table fitted with galvanized-steel mud pans used for drywall joint compound as planters (holes are drilled in the bottoms) brings a whole new meaning to dining in the garden. The planters are filled with easy-care succulents.



## 45 KEEP IT COHESIVE

Group containers with a similar surface texture, color, or some other unifying feature. Grouping bright-light-loving succulents shows off the textural matte-finish containers with funky shapes. Shown here from left to right: *Haworthia fasciata*, *Mangave 'Lavender Lady'*, *Sedum 'Blue Spruce'*, *Rhipsalis* sp., *Crassula 'Hobbit'*, and *Euphorbia* sp.



**46 RETOOL FOR IMPACT** Repurpose vintage garden tools to hang wooden berry baskets filled with flowers.



**47 ON THE RISE**  
A black-eyed Susan vine towers over blue salvia in a cobalt blue pot. The trellis was given a honey-color stain and a decorative star for a bit of pizzazz.



**48 GO BOLD** With lavish, oversize foliage and vivid blooms, cannas provide vertical sizzle in gardens and large containers. The Tropicanna or Pretoria cannas have especially gorgeous striped leaves.



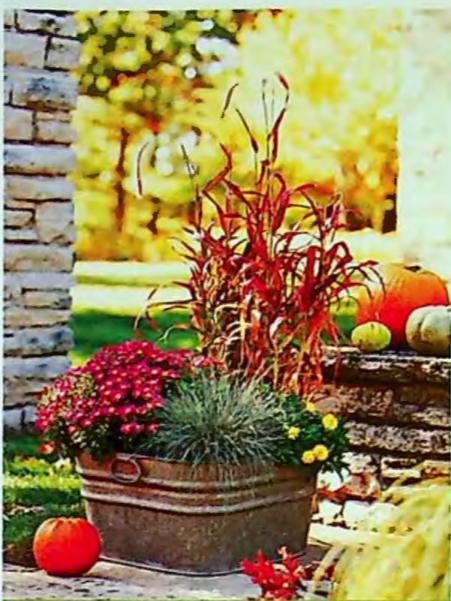
**52 MINI OASIS**  
A tall papyrus exudes the same breezy feel as a palm tree (but scaled down for the backyard). Purple-tinged trailing plants ground the arrangement.



**53 TEAM SPIRIT**  
Use similar but not the same plants. In back, deep maroon 'Diamond Head' elephant's ear joins two types of coleus and a chenille plant. An 'Illustris' elephant's ear is out in front.



**54 THREE OF A KIND** Pick a theme to achieve a cohesive look with different plants. Here, matching pots underscore the similarities among a collection of pink-tinged part-shade plants.

**49****FALL FOR**

**FALL** Red fountain grass provides a backdrop for 'Cecilia' chrysanthemum and Sundaze Golden Yellow strawflower in an old laundry tub. Blue fescue lends texture to the front edge.

**50****STRIKE A**

**POSE** Painted red twigs add pizzazz to this pot of 'Purple Baron' millet, 'Morning Light' maidengrass, hebe variegata, a dwarf mugo pine, and wintergreen.

**51****CROWNING**

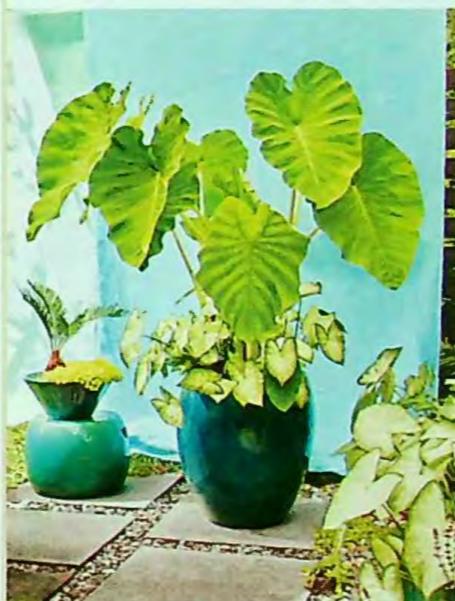
**GLORY** Top stone pillars with clay pots filled with begonias or other colorful blooms for visual appeal.

**55****ETERNAL**

**FLAME** Though 'Striata' canna provides drama on its own (it can get up to 6 feet tall), it's even better set off by dark-leaf 'Solenia Red Orange' begonia and trailing calibrachoa.

**56****BIG BIRD** For

textural and color contrast, underplant a bird-of-paradise with frothy asparagus fern, red-heart coleus, and chartreuse creeping Jenny.

**57****STARRING...**

**FOLIAGE** chartreuse elephant's ear and caladium look as fresh and vibrant as any pot full of flowers. In a smaller pot, a sago palm and sedum echo the bright green palette.

## 58 LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY POCKET POT

**POT** You can start plants indoors in winter or early spring and bring them into bloom weeks ahead of the gardening season by using mail-order prechilled lily-of-the-valley rootstock or rhizomes, called pips. For an especially attractive display, plant in a strawberry pot.





## 61 PIPE UP WITH PLANTERS

Cut PVC pipe to desired length, spray-paint, and set into the ground to make a garden border. Plant with a variety of succulents or annuals.

**59** **TRough CONTAINER** Perfect for a balcony railing, this planter is actually a modified length of galvanized gutter. This planter is filled with succulents, but any trailing plants that offer variety in texture, bloom, and foliage would work.



## 60 GROW GRILLSIDE

Park a bountiful container of your favorite herbs next to your grill and let the culinary delights roll in.



**62** **FUN FENCE** These DIY trough planters are made from 3-foot sections of spray-painted vinyl gutters and end caps. After drilling drainage holes in the gutters, attach to the reinforced areas of the fence with screws—then fill with potting soil, herbs, and flowers.



## 63 PULLEY POWER

This rope and pulley duo makes it easy to lower the pots of red impatiens for watering and deadheading. Consider how you will lower plants or reach containers for frequent watering.

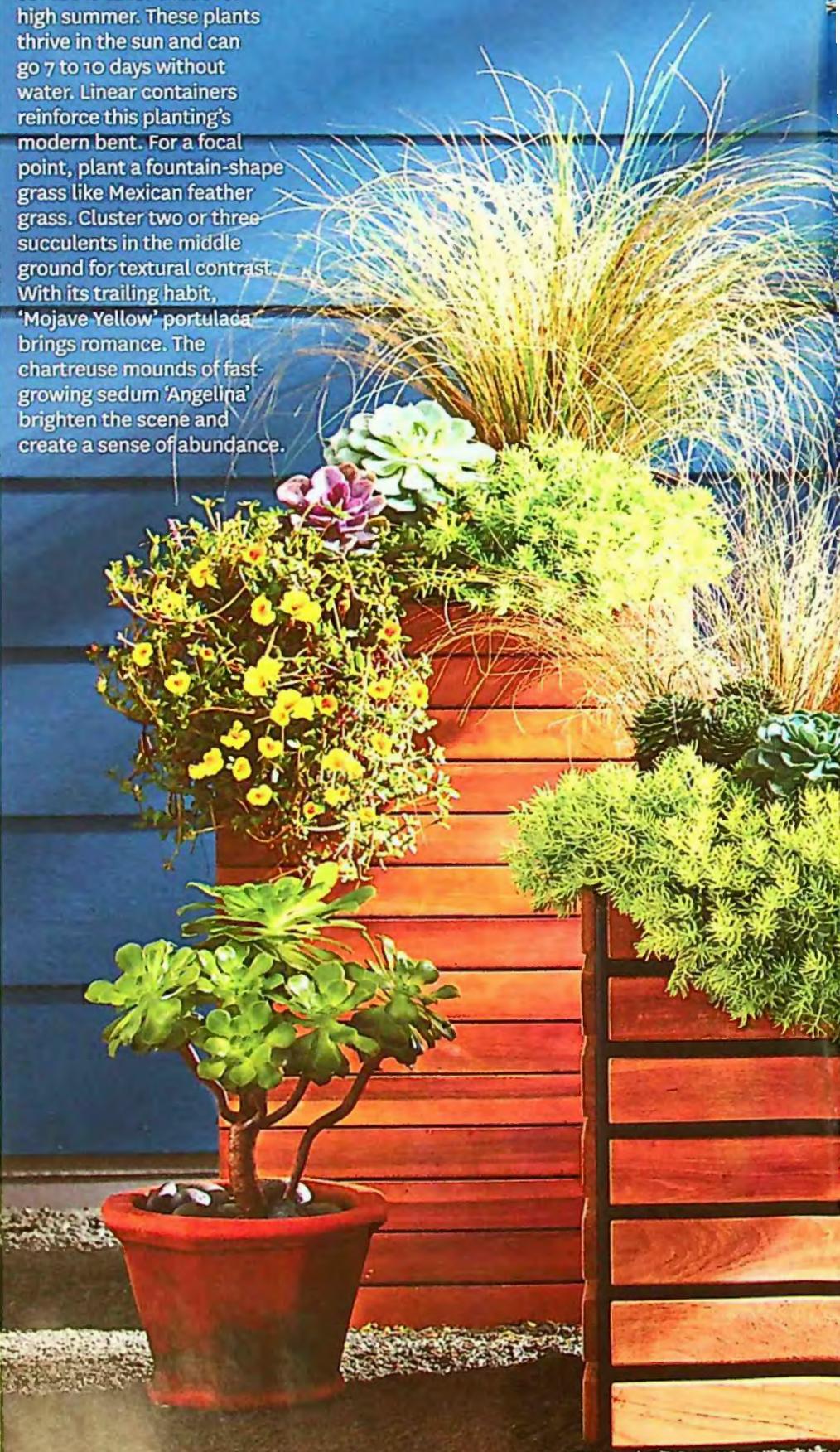


## 64 CASUAL CENTERPIECE

Stretch a rubber band around a container. Gather twigs; cut them to the height of the container and insert inside the rubber band. Cover the rubber band with twine. Set the container on a purchased twig wreath; fill with mums.

## 65 HOT COMBO

This container combo is tailor-made for high summer. These plants thrive in the sun and can go 7 to 10 days without water. Linear containers reinforce this planting's modern bent. For a focal point, plant a fountain-shape grass like Mexican feather grass. Cluster two or three succulents in the middle ground for textural contrast. With its trailing habit, 'Mojave Yellow' portulaca brings romance. The chartreuse mounds of fast-growing sedum 'Angelina' brighten the scene and create a sense of abundance.



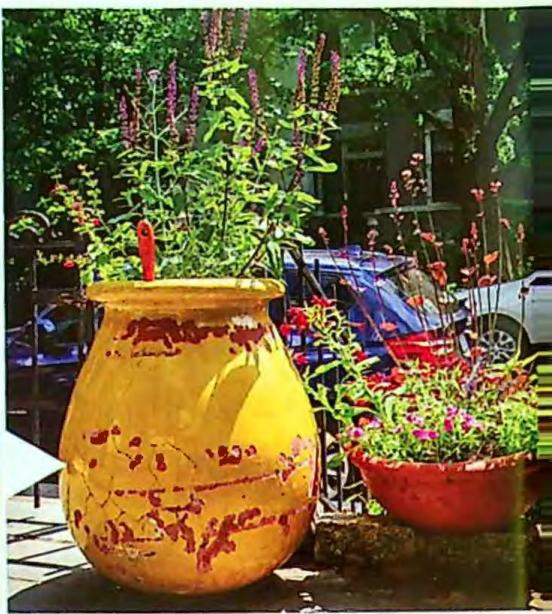


## 67 AUTUMN SPECTACULAR

These plantings will thrive until temps are regularly below freezing. 'Red dragon' Japanese maple leaves go from cherry red to crimson in fall. Pruning keeps them small enough for a container. Ornamental cabbage, 'Icicles' licorice plant, Swiss chard, and kale round out the rest of this arrangement.



**68 A PERFECTLY PRETTY POT** An Aeonium 'Sunburst' succulent combines beautifully with pink Alonsoa and Angelina sedum or Petrosedum rupestre 'Angelina'.



**69 PLAY WITH SCALE** This big flowerpot planted with salvia makes the garden seem bigger than it really is. It also helps provide privacy.



**70 LOW-MAINTENANCE** Upright juniper, agave, burro's tail (*Sedum morganianum*), ghost plant (*Graptopetalum paraguayense*), giant Echeveria, and creeping stonecrop will tolerate sun to part shade.



**71 PURPLE POWER** A window box is the vessel for the purple hues of summer snapdragon, Spanish lavender, periwinkle, and false African violet and the white-tinged foliage of variegated Algerian ivy, boxwood, and licorice plant.



**72 MAKE A FAIRY FOREST** Create a fairy-size forest anywhere in your yard: Load up a hypertufa trough with dwarf conifers, succulent sedums, and cascading groundcovers.



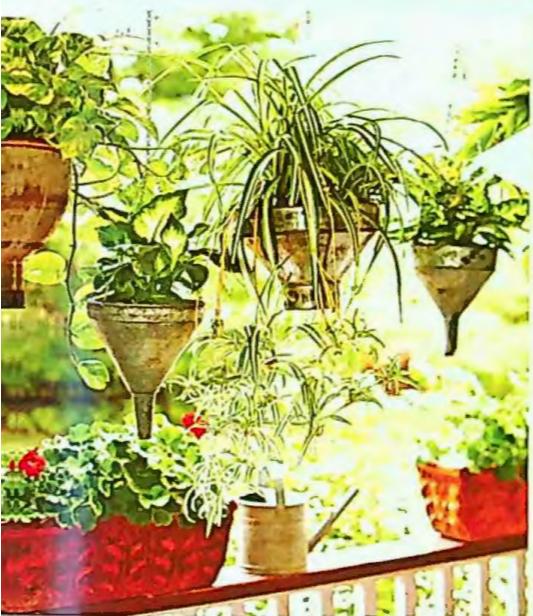
**73 BOLD CONTRAST** An oakleaf croton is surrounded by a colorful mix of Sonic Hot Rose on Gold New Guinea impatiens, 'Karen' Rieger begonias, *Heuchera villosa* 'Citronelle', Sweet Caroline Bronze sweet potato vine, and Sundew Springs *Lysimachia*.



**74 ROOFTOP GARDEN**  
Lounge in the mists of a vegetable garden. 'Spigariello' broccoli raab, 'Lacinato' kale, and chicory produce their greens in terra-cotta pots.



**75 CENTER POINT**  
Pump up the drama with purple Lacinato kale as a colorful counterpoint to lighter-color companion plants such as orange sedge carex, 'Sundance' choisya, 'Roy's Red' coprosma, viola sorbet mix, and 'Stoplight' heucherella.



**76 HOUSEPLANTS ON VACATION** Indoor plants benefit from moving outdoors for summer. Funnels make outstanding hanging planters with built-in drainage holes. Stage them with easy growers, such as pothos and philodendron.



**77 EYE-CATCHING COLOR** Bright blossoms make container gardens pop, especially when perched on a painted pallet. Hanging pots hold a sturdy assortment of puffy yellow marigolds and spicy-red New Guinea impatiens.



**78 MOSSY DISH GARDEN** Create a work of art with a combination of moss and fern plants, pea gravel, and a decorative branch.



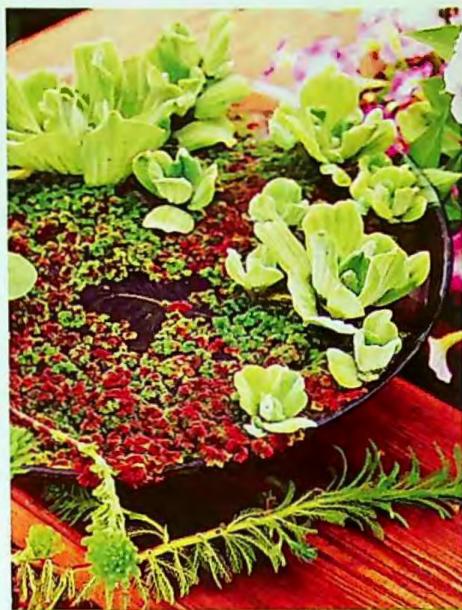
**79 TINY WOODLAND** This woodland scene contains two miniature conifers: one tall and columnar and one shorter and mounded. Surround conifers with pea gravel and a few interesting stones.



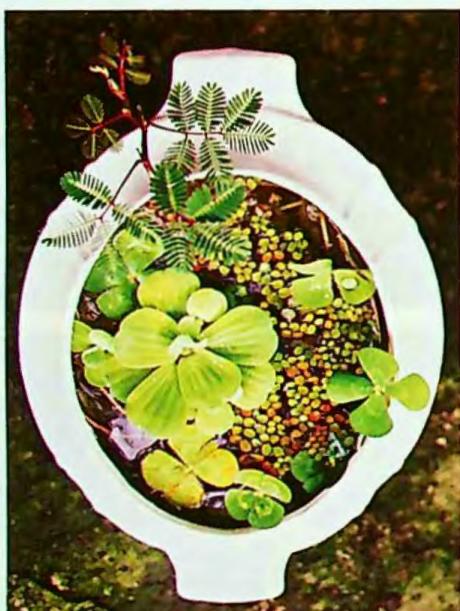
**80 CROCK OF CATTAILS** Cattails spread, so confining them to a container makes sense. Plant a dwarf variety in a pot made for aquatic plants, then submerge it in a tall crock of water.



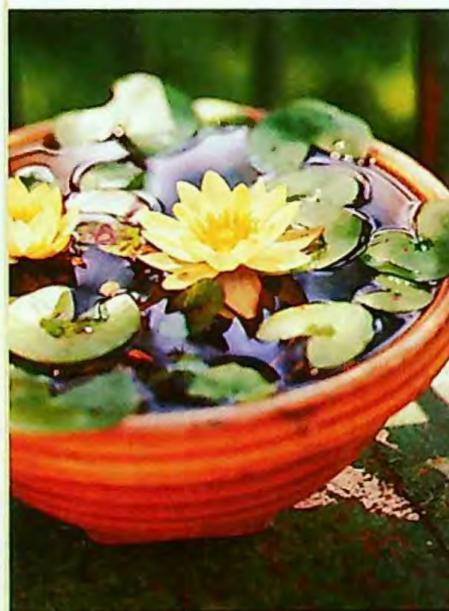
**81 TINY WATER GARDEN** Water hyacinths (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and floating fern (*Salvinia minima*) add a splash of refreshing green to enamelware.



**82 BRING A DISH** Long branches of parrot feather plant scramble out of this dish water garden, which also hosts water lettuce and mosquito fern (*Azolla*).



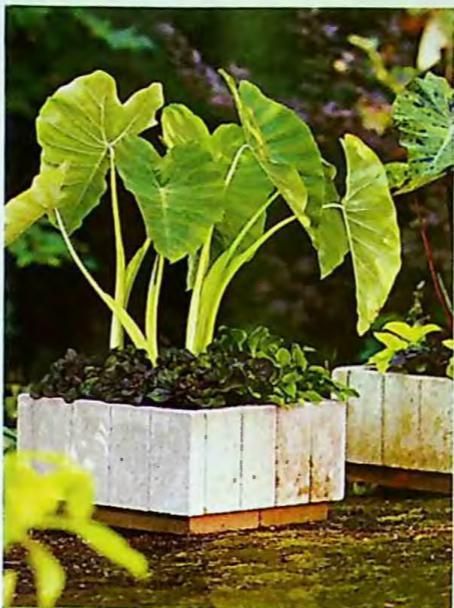
**86 TINY POND** A vintage soup tureen serves up a bounty of floating water plants. This mix contains water clover, water lettuce, and floating fern. A stem of water mimosa resembles the handle of a ladle.



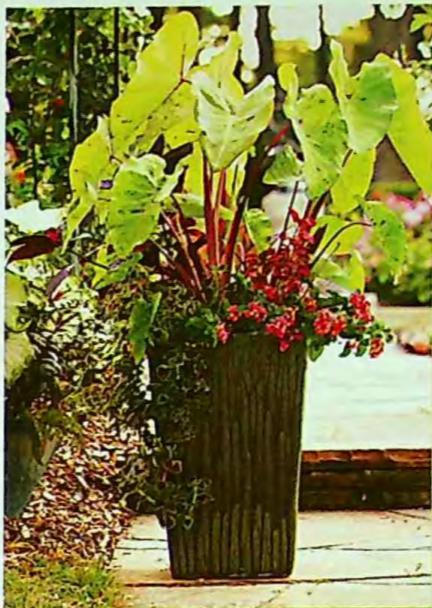
**87 MINI WATER LILIES** With proper care, hardy miniature water lilies, such as these *Nymphaea 'Pygmaea Helvola'* planted in a yellowware bowl, will bloom from summer until first frost.



**88 GO FISH** Water hyacinth minimize algae growth and oxygenate the water, the fish feeds on mosquito larvae, and the only maintenance duties are periodic feeding and cleaning. Keep out of direct sunlight.



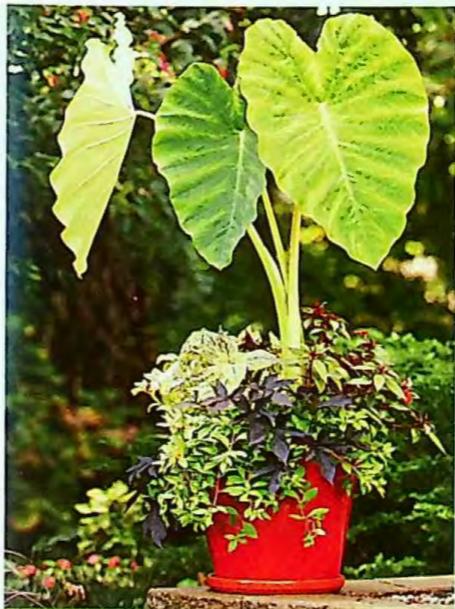
**83 STARRING  
ROLE** Graceful and bold elephant's ear (*Colocasia esculenta* 'Lime Aide') erupts from a bed of purple bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*) and dwarf hosta in this chunky planter.



**84 TROPICAL  
VACATION** Evoke an island paradise with spotted elephant's ear (*C. esculenta* 'Hawaiian Punch'), pink lantana, burgundy variegated coleus, and bloodleaf (*Iresine herbstii*).



**85 LAYERED  
LOOK** A 'Calidora' alocasia and dark purple canna stand tall at the back while a red hibiscus, and a green and a wine-color elephant's ear (*C. esculenta* 'Black Coral') fill out the middle.



**89 STRIKING  
RESEMBLANCE** This 'Elena' elephant's ear lifts its large leaves above a mist of sweet potato vine, coleus, and the blooms of loosestrife and impatiens.



**90 DARK &  
DRAMATIC** Set off by a dark container, the dark hues of this elephant's ear plant (*C. esculenta* 'Black Beauty') work a sophisticated magic with the surrounding graphic shapes.



**91 PLANT CROPS  
IN POTS** Garden-fresh greens look beautiful planted in a pot and produce a harvest you can count on for months of salads and stir-fries. Add zinnia for a colorful punch.

## 92

**POCKET OF SUNSHINE** Purchase a pocket organizer or make your own and plant with annuals such as zinnia, creeping Jenny, and sage.



## 93

**HIDDEN AGENDA** If you have a garden spot that is hard to grow anything in, try digging holes and placing containers in them. This pot contains a mix of orange and violet seed geraniums along with bronze and rose snapdragons.

## 94

**CREATE A FOCAL POINT**

A container with one flowering variety can really stand out among the rest. This pot shows off helianthus, a species of sunflower. A large container with dark vertigo grass helps accent the color in front of it.



## 95

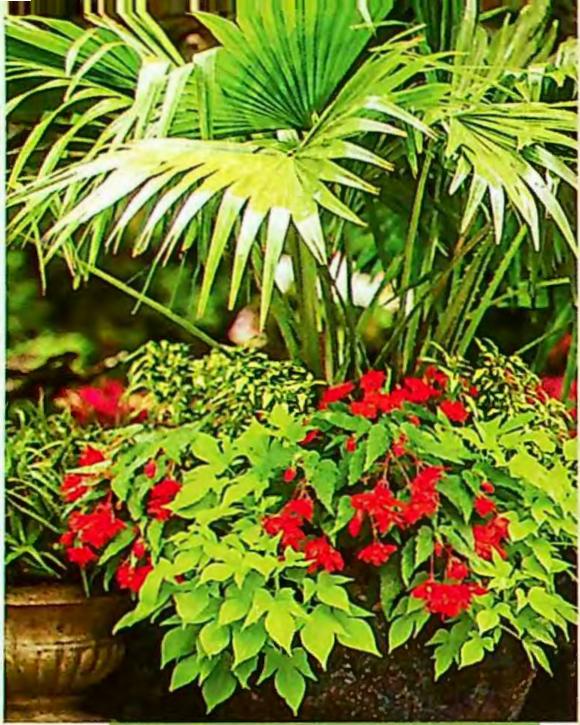
**PUNCH UP THE COLOR**

This easygoing collection of tropical-punch colors combines pale caladiums with rosy centers, purple-and-green *Magilla perilla*, the dark-purple leaves of *Calathea 'Dottie'*, ferns, and the feathery contrast of a ghost fern (*Athyrium 'Ghost'*). You can rely on color and texture all summer long.



## 96 BEAUTIFUL

**BIRCH** Make your own nature-inspired decorative container by wrapping a sheet of bark around a plastic nursery pot or a terra-cotta flowerpot. The large container includes eastern bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), white wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia* 'Alba'), and birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*). The small pot holds a bleeding heart.



## 97 FAN-SHAPE FOLIAGE

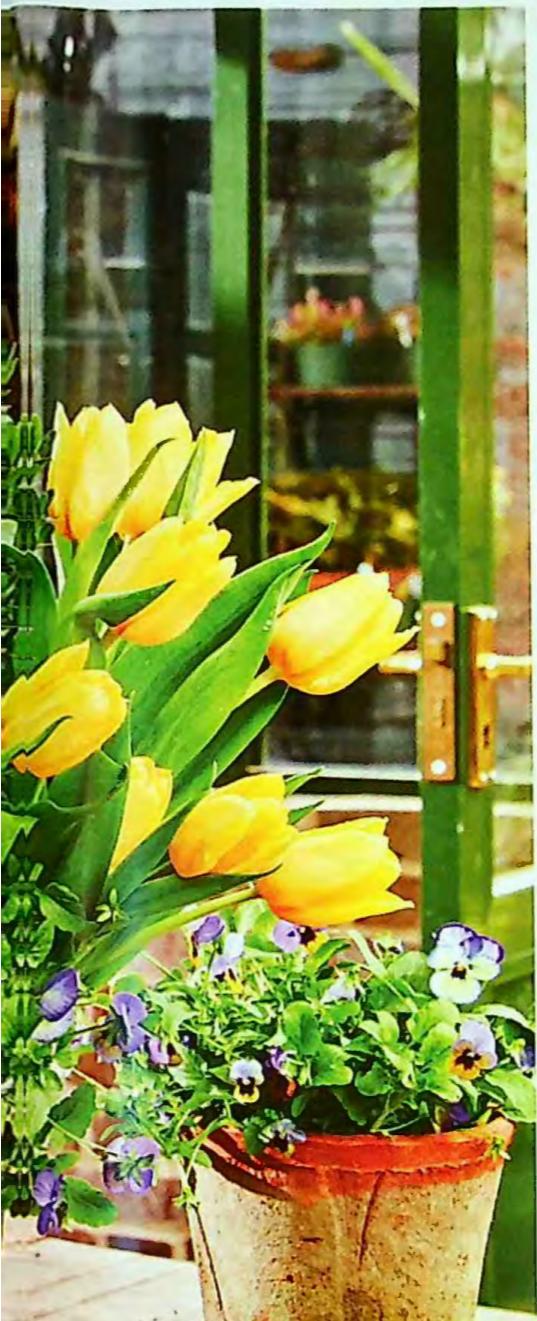
This palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, can spend the winters indoors by a sunny window and go outside when the weather warms up. In this container, a Chinese fan palm sways above 'Alligator Tears' coleus, chartreuse 'Marguerite' sweet potato vine, angel wing begonia, and a bright orange-blooming New Guinea impatiens.



## 98 HANGING CRATE

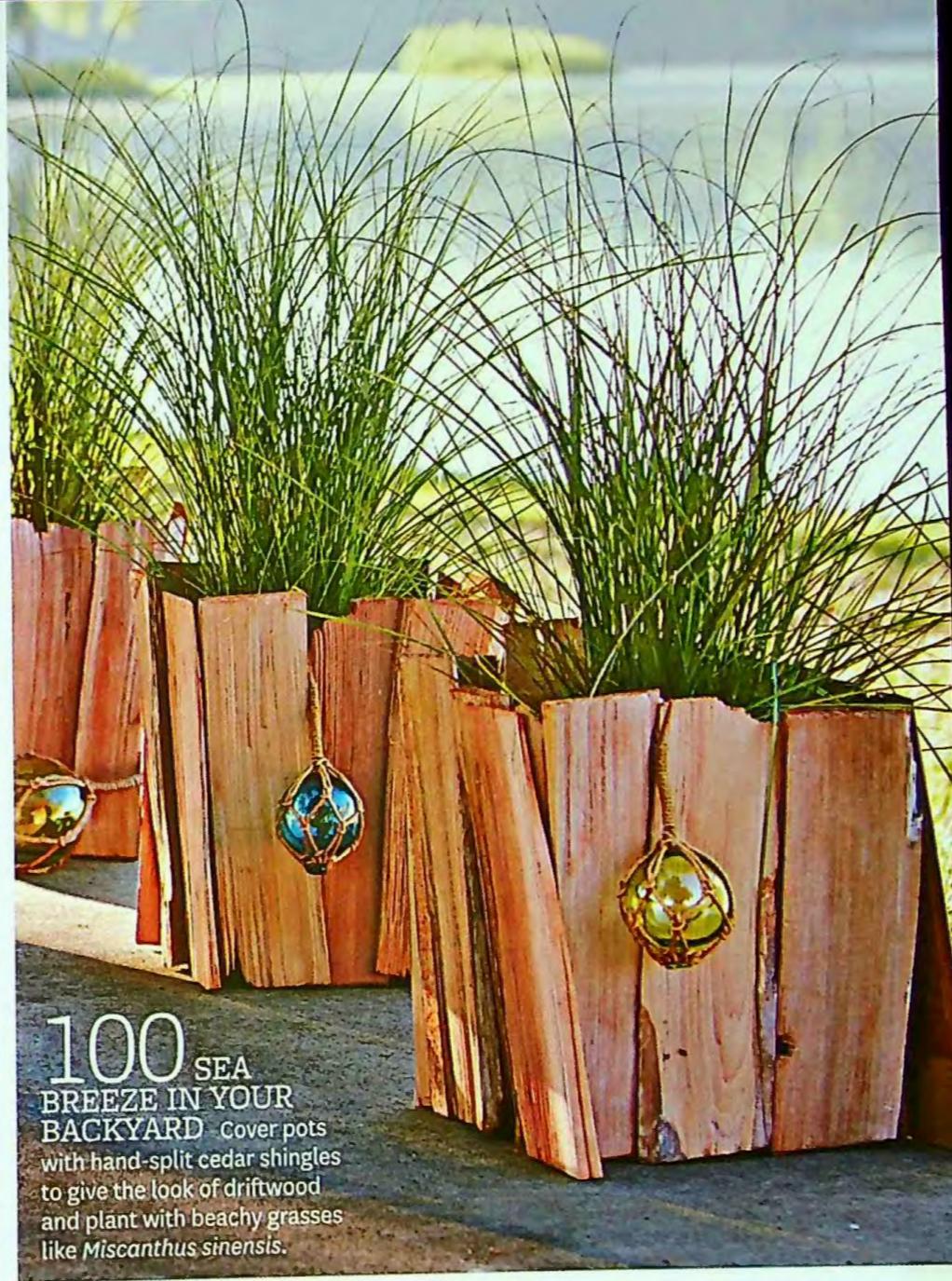
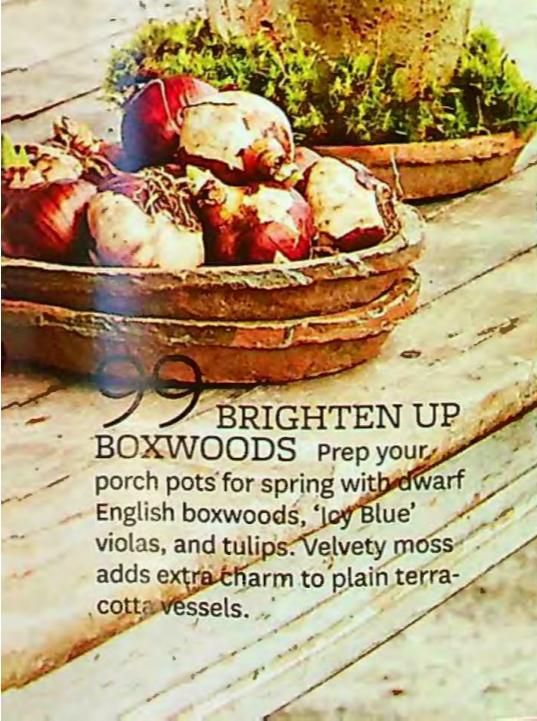
Catch eyes from a block away with a colorful hanging basket filled with trailing varieties of calibrachoa. Use square dowels, paint, and four 18-inch chain lengths to create a custom hanging basket.





99

**BRIGHTEN UP BOXWOODS** Prep your porch pots for spring with dwarf English boxwoods, 'Icy Blue' violas, and tulips. Velvetly moss adds extra charm to plain terra-cotta vessels.



**100 SEA BREEZE IN YOUR BACKYARD** Cover pots with hand-split cedar shingles to give the look of driftwood and plant with beachy grasses like *Miscanthus sinensis*.



**101**

**HERE'S THE SCOOP** Galvanized metal feed scoops from the farm supply store make affordable plant perches mounted on the side of your home or shed or on a fence. Opt for low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants like sunflowers and grasses for small pots.

